2026-27 ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

General Regulations and Event-Specific Regulations for Adult Rugby (Senior Club)

The following rationale and principles apply to USA Club Rugby Eligibility Regulations:

1. To provide fair and equitable standards of eligibility throughout the season for all matches leading to, and including, the USA Club Rugby National Championships.

2. To provide minimum eligibility and registration standards for all matches, which helps ensure safety and liability insurance coverage.

3. To promote appropriate player movement within a club.

4. To facilitate appropriate competitions for senior club rugby.

5. The Senior Club Competition and Eligibility Committees are responsible for establishing the structure of USA Club Rugby Championship Events, along with Competition and Eligibility Regulations.

6. The Senior Club Competitions and Eligibility Committees are responsible for determining the clubs and members that participate in the USA Club Rugby Championship Events.

7. Each member club and all members of USA Rugby (i.e. player, coach, manager, referee, medical support staff, administrator or official) shall be familiar with, and comply with, all applicable USA Rugby Eligibility Regulations as set forth herein in the conduct of its/their rugby program.

8. A member club and its players must monitor its/their own compliance with all Eligibility Regulations to identify and report to the Approved Governing Body instances in which compliance has failed, whether intentionally or not.

9. In instances of known or suspected non-compliance, a member club shall take immediate corrective action, including notification of the appropriate administrative authorities.

10. Interpretation ambiguities and waiver allowances are solely the responsibilities of the Senior Club Eligibility Committee and any appeal board sanctioned by the Senior Club Council.

11. No member club or player is permitted to advance its/their own interpretation to its/their advantage nor to the detriment of an opponent. It is the responsibility of a member club or player to seek resolution of an ambiguity where ambiguity arises and would be reasonably recognized as such by another reviewing the situation.

12. A player or member club found not in compliance with the Eligibility Regulations established herein shall be subject to such disciplinary and corrective actions as provided under USA Rugby, Senior Club Council, or the Approved Governing Body rules. All member clubs and players must adhere to the process provided.

13. **Spirit of the Rules (World Rugby Charter)** - Rugby owes much of its attraction to the fact that it is played both to the letter, and within the spirit, of the laws. The responsibility for ensuring that this happens lies not with one individual, it is the responsibility of all participants: coaches, captains, players, referees, and administrators. It is through discipline, control and mutual respect that the spirit of the game flourishes, and in the context of a game as physically challenging as rugby, these are the qualities which forge the fellowship and sense of fair play so essential to the game's ongoing success and survival.

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Section 1. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS.

1. **Academy.** Formal arrangement between a professional rugby club and targeted players who have demonstrated the potential to be a professional rugby player.
2. **Adult Rugby.** Rugby other than college rugby played by teams comprised of players normally of 18 years of age and older.
3. **Appeal.** A formal review of the procedure followed to render a decision by the Approved Governing Body or a Senior Club Council Committee (See Section 7.6).
4. **Approved Governing Body.** The local or direct administrative body for a competitions which is required to have full knowledge of the content of these Regulations.
5. **Approved Governing Body Playoffs.** Competition between teams of the same division seeking to advance to the USA Club Rugby NCS (NCS Qualifying matches). The game(s) may be used to meet player match participation. The game/s may be used to meet lower divisional eligibility criteria only if the upper division limit (See Reg 3.5) was not met during the regular league season. Players must be, or be able to become, NCS eligible, or have a waiver from USA Rugby, to participate.
6. **Basis of Competition.** Game between two teams, playing what is considered to be the strongest squad on that day, in an effort to determine the 'best' team.
7. **Clearance.** A player leaving their current club to play for another club (in the same or a different local union, or in a different national rugby Union) is not eligible to participate in organized, recognized or sanctioned competitions with the new club until they have their clearance request approved by their home club and local union, or if applicable, by their home national rugby Union. This requirement applies for players moving between clubs within USA Rugby (domestic clearance) and for players moving between different national rugby Unions (international clearance).
8. **Club.** A group, having registered under a specific club registration number, which may field multiple teams, registered to USA Rugby and to all Approved Governing Bodies in accordance with the Regulations.
9. **Community Rugby.** Local amateur rugby, includes participation at the youth/high school, college and senior club level.
10. **Competition.** Unless otherwise specified by the participants as a social or friendly match, a match between two teams, using squads considered strongest on that day, to determine the 'best' team.
11. **Competitions.** The Qualifying match schedule for the clubs of an Approved Governing Body.
12. **Competition Management System (CMS).** Required for all Qualifying matches. Entry must be completed no later than 48 hours after the conclusion of each match. The CMS will provide evidence of the number of Qualifying matches each player has played. The current CMS used by USA Club Rugby is Rugby Xplorer (RX). Errors in roster submissions are the responsibility of the local union, club, and individual to fix within 48 hours of the match.
13. **Competitive Season.** August 15th through completion of the USA Club Rugby Sevens Championship.
14. **Division.** Competitive level of competitions, with the 'Higher' division intended for the more experienced, skilled, dedicated, and continuing players and the 'Lower' division intended for developmental, emerging or less experienced, and/or less dedicated players. This definition applies to divisions in which there is a USA Club Rugby Championship Event.
15. Domestic Clearance. See Section 1.7.
16. **Eligibility Decision.** Written determination from USA Club Rugby in response to a formal, written request for a waiver submitted by the affected player or club (see Section 7.5.2).
17. **Elite Player.** For senior club fifteens competition only, any player that has taken the field during the current and/or the immediately preceding calendar year in a Women's Elite Rugby (WER) competition.
18. **Event Roster.** List of the eligible players, both 'starters' and 'replacements', available to the team for the duration of that Event.
19. **Event Weekend.** The time period covering a single USA Club Rugby Championship Event, i.e. from team check-in through the final whistle in any given category, division or gender, in which the full roster is set and locked for the duration of the calendar weekend.
20. **Fifteens Competitive Season.** August 15th through the completion of the USA Club Rugby Fifteens National Championship.
21. **Forfeit**. The assignment of a loss to a team, regardless of the result on the field or whether the match was played, due to the team's failure to meet competition requirements, failure to participate, or violation of eligibility, roster, registration, or other competition regulations.
22. **Higher Division Team.** Intended division for experienced and continuing senior club players seeking and able to compete at the highest level possible with the largest and most competitive clubs. The top rugby players on a club fielding teams in more than one division.
23. **In Good Standing.** Player/club is in compliance with the criteria specified in Sections 2.4 and 2.5, and therefore, eligible to participate in sanctioned competitions.
24. **International Clearance.** See Section 1.7.

25. **Laws.** Laws of the Game of Rugby Union as published annually by World Rugby.
26. **Lower Division Team.** Intended division for less competitive clubs, or the developmental squad of larger clubs, so as to provide competitive opportunities to less experienced and emerging players, team members returning from injury. Provides avenue for clubs fielding teams in more than one division to develop their own players.
27. **Match.** A game in which two teams compete against each other.
28. **Match Roste**r. List of starting and replacement players.
29. **Major League Rugby (MLR).** A professional rugby competition within North America.
30. **Members.** All players, coaches, administrators, referees, player support personnel and other persons under the jurisdiction of the USA Rugby.
31. **Membership.** Registration with USA Rugby. All clubs and players must be registered and in good standing with USA Rugby before participating in any competition or other rugby activity of a physical nature, in accordance with the Regulations contained herein.
32. **National Championship Series (NCS) Player Documentation**. Documentation (See Section 7.4) that should be maintained from the start of the competitive season by the club and made available upon demand and/ or prior to participation in any Qualifying Match/Event and USA Club Rugby NCS to verify each player's identity, their citizenship or resident status, and any waivers granted by the Senior Club eligibility Committee. Players unable to provide appropriate documentation will be deemed ineligible to play in Qualifying matches/tournaments and/or assigned Non-Resident or Non-Citizen Player status.
33. **National Championship Series (NCS) Qualifying Match/Event.** Any match/event in which the result is used to determine official Competition standings and/or to determine qualification for any USA Club Rugby Championship Event (Fifteens and/or Sevens).
34. **National Championship Series (NCS).** The USA Club Rugby National Championship Series includes the playoffs for Men's Divisions I, II, and III, and Women's Divisions I and II, starting with the earlier of either the USA Club Rugby 'Round of 16' or any Senior Club Competitions Committee required cross union play-in match or matches, and culminating in the National Championship. The NCS also includes Men's and Women's single division competitive sevens Qualifying events leading to the National Championship.
35. **Non-Citizen Player (NC)**. A player who lacks U.S. citizenship.
36. **Non-Resident Player (NR).** A player who has neither U.S. citizenship nor USA Permanent Resident ("Green Card") status.
37. **Participant.** Registered member of USA Rugby, which includes a club, player, coach, manager, referee, medical support staff, administrator and official participating in USA Club Rugby.
38. **Play.** Play is defined as actually stepping onto the field either as a starter, reserve, or blood substitution for any length of time. A player can be named on the roster for a match and not actually "play" in the match.
39. **Professional Rugby Player (fifteens).** Any player that has taken the field during the current and/or the immediately preceding calendar year in a professional rugby competition. Professional status will be based on factors which may include but are not limited to: participation in a competition that has established itself to be professional; the amount and nature of compensation received; participation in a high level daily training environment, and meaningful match participation.
40. **Professional Rugby Player (sevens).** Any player that has taken the field during the current calendar year in a professional rugby competition. Professional status will be based on factors which may include but are not limited to: participation in a competition that has established itself to be professional; the amount and nature of compensation received; participation in a high level daily training environment, and meaningful match participation.
41. **Professional Rugby Competition.** The status of a given competition as "professional" will be subject to the discretion of the Eligibility Committee, working in conjunction with the relevant (7s or 15s) Competitions Committee. Factors may include but are not limited to; the amount and nature of compensation provided to players, whether the competition considers itself to be professional, whether team assembly and daily training environment truly reflect a professional organization, and meaningful match participation.
42. **Qualifying Event.** Part of the NCS pathway, a~~A~~ny competition in which the result is used to determine official competition standings and/or to determine qualification for any USA Club Rugby Championship Event.
43. **Recognized Competitive Match.** A match, approved in advance by the fifteens competitions committee, that counts as a Qualifying match for player eligibility purposes. Played by a team which has already qualified, or is in contention, for the USA Club Rugby NCS and which meets the criteria specified in Regulation 3.4.3.(a) through (n).
44. **Recognized Sevens Competitive Tournament.** A competition taking place over the course of at least one day between four or more registered sevens teams. The event must be recognized by the Sevens Competitions Committee by June 1 to be used for player eligibility purposes. Competitive team rosters must be verified and submitted by an event host to USA Club Rugby.
45. **Registration Deadline.** Date by which a player must be registered to the club and residing in the United States in order to participate in any Qualifying event (see Section 3.4-(a), Section 5.2-(b)).

46. **Regular League Season.** A set number of games against a set number of opponents before the start of the Approved Governing Body play-offs.
47. **Regulations.** Eligibility guidelines relating to the Game and binding on all Approved Governing Bodies.
48. **Release.** A club and the Approved Governing Body agree to end the registration of a participant with that club. The club and the Approved Governing Body shall provide USA Rugby an approval for the transfer and verification that the participant has no outstanding financial or disciplinary issues.
49. **Roster.** List of players competing in a specified division for an entire Event weekend (see also Event roster, Match roster and Event weekend). The full roster for the Event weekend must be confirmed by the date and time announced by USA Rugby.
50. **Senior Club.** Rugby other than college rugby played by players normally of 18 years of age and older on teams registered with USA Rugby as 'Senior Clubs'.
51. **Senior Club Eligibility Committee.** Sub-Committee of the Senior Club Council, responsible for establishing the Regulations required of participants in USA Club Rugby National Championship Events.
52. **Senior Club Fifteens Competitions Committee.** Sub-Committee of the Senior Club Council, responsible for establishing the pathway for Clubs to advance to USA Club Rugby National Championship Events.
53. **Senior Club Sevens Competitions Committee.** Sub-Committee of the Senior Club Council. Responsible for establishing the pathway for Clubs to advance to USA Club Rugby Sevens National Championship.
54. **Senior Club-Required Play-In Game.** A match between teams of two different Approved Governing Bodies, scheduled by and required by the Senior Club Fifteens Competitions Committee, which did not qualify directly to the USA Club Rugby NCS. This is an extension of any USA Club Rugby Championship Event and falls under the jurisdiction of USA Club Rugby.
55. **Senior National Team**. A team that represents a nation in an international rugby competition.
56. **Senior National Team Player.** Players participating on a senior team representing a nation in international competition. Those players who are part of a season-long, full time training environment, receiving more than actual and necessary expenses, are considered professional players for USA Club Rugby competitions (see Section 1.35).
57. Senior Club **Sevens Competitive Season.** June 1st through completion of the USA Club Rugby Sevens Championships.
58. ~~Sevens~~ **Qualifying Sevens Tournament.** A competition taking place over the course of at least one day between four or more registered sevens teams, administered by the Approved Governing Body and approved in advance by the Senior Club Sevens Competitions Committee. ~~Qualifying team rosters must be entered into CMS. Paper or other rosters will not be accepted.~~
59. ~~Sevens~~ **Qualifying Sevens Tournament Roster.** The list of players available for a ~~club~~ team for duration of a Sevens Qualifying tournament. Each roster is locked for duration of that Qualifying event and must include a minimum of nine (9) players with a maximum of thirteen (13) players. Competitive team rosters must be verified (Section 7.4) and entered into the Match Day application (CMS). Paper or other rosters will not be accepted.
60. **Spirit of the Rules (World Rugby Charter).** The responsibility for ensuring that rugby is played both to the letter of the rules and within the intent of the laws lies with all participants including the coaches, captains, players and referees.
61. **Team.** A subgroup of a Club that represents varying levels of Competition for any given match or set of matches – often designated as A-team, B-team, or 'upper' or 'lower' team, or first-team and second-team, with "A-team', 'upper' and 'first-team' being the highest competitive level of players on that Club.
62. **Transfer.** Official process of changing club affiliation. All transfers must be approved by USA Club Rugby for player eligibility in the NCS. The transfer process in RX has two steps: (1) When player's request to join a new club is approved by the home club and local union, the player will receive an email notification that their request was approved. (2) Player must complete their registration to the new club in RX. If the player played in any NCS Qualifying matches with their home club, they must also receive a waiver from the SCC eligibility committee before playing any NCS Qualifying matches with the new club. If there are problems with the club and/or local union completing the approval process, players must contact those bodies; this will not be considered as a reason for late registration with the new club.
63. **USA Club Rugby Championship Event.** Event under the authority and jurisdiction of USA Club Rugby. Includes the USA Club Rugby Playoffs starting with any Required Play-In Games.
64. **USA Club Rugby National Championship Series (NCS).** The playoffs for Men's Division I, II, and III, and Women's Divisions I and II, starting with the earlier of either the USA Club Rugby 'Round of 16' or any Senior Club Competitions Committee Required Play-in Match or Matches, and culminating in the National Championship.
65. **Waiver.** Relief from the specified requirement(s) of these Regulations, granted in writing by USA Rugby in response to a formal, written request, made by the affected player or club (see Section 7.5.2).
66. **Women's Elite Rugby (WER)**. Women's elite competition in the United States.

SECTION 2. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS.

2.1. General Policy Statement.

The following General and Event-Specific Regulations must be enforced by the Approved Governing Body for all matches. The Senior Club Council is responsible for establishing the structure of USA Club Rugby Championship Events and minimum

Competitions and Eligibility standards. The Approved Governing Body is responsible for determining the clubs that participate according to the structure established by the Senior Club Council.

2.2. Power to Provide Official Interpretations and/or to Amend Provisions During the Season.

In the event that the Senior Club Eligibility Committee considers it is in the interests of USA Rugby or a USA Club Rugby Competitions, it may provide official interpretations and/or amend Eligibility Regulations during a season.

a. If exceptional and extraordinary material circumstances, such as a natural disaster, have occurred during any USA Club Rugby Competitions which either have not been provided for in or cannot be fairly dealt with under USA Club Rugby Regulations (particularly if national play-off status is likely to be affected), the Eligibility Committee may provide official interpretations or amend Eligibility Regulations for the current competitive season and/or determine the results of Qualifying matches/events that have not been played for reasons related to the above exceptional and material circumstances.
b. Any decision made or taken by this Eligibility Committee shall become final and binding unless any person/club affected has submitted an Appeal (See Section 7.6) to the Senior Club Council. Such Appeal must be made within five (5) days of the affected person/club receiving notification of the Eligibility Decision; and no less than five (5) business days prior to the event for which eligibility is being requested. There shall be no waiver to this timeline.

2.3. Compliance with Eligibility.

All updated information on current year Eligibility Regulations will be maintained at www.usarugby.org and https://usaclub.rugby/resources/ Each Approved Governing Body:

a. must have full knowledge of the content of these Regulations; and
b. must comply with these Regulations; and
c. must educate its members on the Regulations and ensure that its members comply with the Spirit of the Rules.

2.4. Club Eligibility.

All senior clubs/teams, including Academy teams, Travel teams, All-Star teams and similar teams regardless of exact naming convention, must be affiliated to and be in compliance with their Senior Club Approved Governing Body and USA Rugby,

Club compliance requires:

a. The club registration fees must be paid in Rugby Xplorer for the current membership year.
b. There must be at least 8+ players registered to the club in Rugby Xplorer for the current membership year, regardless of whether the club/team is playing 15s or 7s.
c. There must be at least one World Rugby Level 1 (formerly called Level 200) or higher coach registered to the club with current Safe Sport and Background Check accreditations

USA Rugby will not create a club/team in Rugby Xplorer without the approval of the relevant parent Union.

All clubs/teams (fifteens and sevens) must exist in Rugby Xplorer, and must be 'compliant' (per 2.a, 2.b, and 2.c above).

For the complete USA Club Membership policies see: https://usa.rugby/policies

2.4.1 International Club / Touring Side Eligibility.

Clubs entering the United States from other Unions must receive official clearance from the home Union and USA Rugby in accordance with World Rugby Regulations. Members of hosting clubs and match officials are not covered by USA Rugby insurance unless the incoming club, and its players, have been approved by their home Union.

2.5. Player Eligibility.

All players must be In Good Standing with their Approved Governing Body and USA Rugby to be eligible to participate in sanctioned competitions. Each player must be currently registered with USA Rugby, with all dues fully paid, prior to participating in any competition or other rugby activity of a physical nature.

a. International Player Eligibility.

Players entering the United States from other Unions after September 1st in the current USA Rugby membership season, must receive official clearance through their home Union and USA Rugby in accordance with World Rugby Regulations (see: https://usa.rugby/international-player-clearance - submit form **USA Player Clearances (**player-clearances@usa.rugby). This includes USA Rugby members returning from playing rugby abroad. Players should be able to produce this document as verification this requirement has been met.

b. Transgender Athletes.

Members shall follow USA Rugby policy regarding transgender athletes (see 2.6). Questions shall be directed to the USA Rugby Compliance Department, **compliance@usa.rugby**

c. Policy for Under 18s/Under 19 Front Rows Playing Adult Rugby.

Players under the age of 18 may not participate in contact activities with any adult rugby club without a USA Rugby waiver for exceptional players. Players of any age competing in adult rugby will no longer be eligible for Youth/High School rugby.

The USA Rugby waiver for exceptional players is an option only for players at least 17 years of age.

Players under the age of 19, but who are at least 17 years of age, may not play in the front row without a waiver from USA Club Rugby.

Coaches allowing any player under the age of 18 to participate in adult rugby contact activities (practice, games, all codes), or any player under the age of 19 to play in the front row without the approved waiver are subject to sanction.

Youth/high school players who participate with a senior club, even if solely for non-contact activities, must register with senior club rugby as the USA Rugby Youth/High School insurance does not apply to adult rugby.

In both scenarios involving players under the age of 18 (contact/non-contact) all members of the senior club must complete the Safe Sport for Players module before the waiver will be approved.

Youth/high school players who join a senior club solely for training and/or to play in social or friendly games, must register with senior club rugby as the USA Rugby Youth/High School insurance does not apply to adult rugby.

2.6. Rugby and Gender.

See the USA Rugby Competition Categories section for Men's Division Competition and Women's Division Competition at https://usa.rugby/policies#:~:text=Competition%20Categories

Questions shall be directed to the USA Rugby Compliance Department, **compliance@usa.rugby**

2.7. SAFESPORT Certification.

USA Rugby requires all its member coaches, referees, administrators, Board members, and players (when notified by USA Club Rugby) to comply with the code and policies and procedures of the US Center for SafeSport (https://usa.rugby/safesport).

2.8. Anti-Doping Policy.

All Members of USA Rugby, as a condition of membership, accreditation and/or participation in the game in any capacity, shall be aware, and have knowledge, of the World Rugby Anti-Doping Policy (https://www.worldrugby.org/handbook/regulations/reg-21) and list of prohibited substances (www.USADA.org/substances/prohibited-list/). It is the player's responsibility to comply with the policy. To make a formal complaint regarding a suspected Anti-Doping Rule Violation by another member, contact USA Rugby Compliance Department, **compliance@usa.rugby** There may be a fee required to launch an investigation on this claim.

SECTION 3. SENIOR CLUB FIFTEENS REGULATIONS.

3.1. National Championship Qualifying Competition Sanctioning.

a. All National Championship Qualifying matches must be a part of a sanctioned USA Club Rugby competitions or sanctioned playoff pathway.

b. All National Championship Qualifying sanctioned matches shall be governed by the World Rugby Laws of the Game. Any and all "Union Specific Variations" are applicable to national Unions only, with USA Rugby the sole decider in determining whether such variations are open to use for National Championship Qualifying matches.

c. Clubs participating in sanctioned competitions must adhere to all club-specific regulations outlined in Section 3.

3.1.1. National Championship/Qualifying Competition Eligibility: Player Documentation (See Section 7.4).

3.2. Club Eligibility: NCS Qualifying Matches.

a. To qualify for the USA Club Rugby NCS, each club selected to represent the Approved Governing Body must:

i. participate in a sanctioned USA Club Rugby competitions which includes at least four NCS-pathway clubs which belong to the same Approved Governing Body. Hybrid leagues, composed of clubs from more than one division, are allowed so long as each club declares their division to the fifteens competitions committee prior to the start of competition. Any exceptions must be approved, in advance, by the SCC Fifteens Competitions Committee.

ii. have a coach registered to the club and current with all USA Rugby required accreditations.

iii. play in at least six (6) NCS Qualifying matches, which can be a combination of regular season league and Approved Governing Body playoff matches. Women's Division 2 must play in at least four (4) NCS Qualifying matches, which can be a combination of regular season league and Approved Governing Body playoff matches. Any exceptions must be approved, in advance, by the SCC Fifteens Competitions Committee.

The Approved Governing Body should request a waiver of the match participation minimum from the Senior Club Competitions Committee as soon as this proves to be a hardship (before start of play: geographic isolation, league contains fewer than four teams; during the season: teams fail to complete the schedule).

iv. not have forfeited an NCS Qualifying match (see Section 1.21).

v. not use more than one unplayed match (forfeited by the opponent) to meet the NCS club participation requirement. Exceptions must be appealed to the SCC Fifteens Competitions Committee.

vi. qualify on the basis of competition (as opposed to on the basis of allocation).

vii. use the USA Rugby Competition Management System (CMS) for all NCS Qualifying matches. Complete rosters should be entered in the Match Day application (CMS) prior to each match 24 hours prior to kickoff unless another timeline is set by the local union. Corrections are allowed up to kick-off (entering the list of substitutes, changing a starter/substitute, changing jersey numbers). Anything revised after kick-off is permissible but should be 'fixed' within 48 hours of the match. Full match data, including substitutions and cards, should be entered into CMS for each NCS Qualifying match whether the game was played or not.

There is no exemption from using CMS for reporting and documenting matches. It is the responsibility of the Approved Governing Body to confirm all member clubs are in compliance with this requirement. Senior club administrators will conduct random checks of CMS to ensure adherence to the timelines noted above. Failure to comply with CMS roster, match recording, and timeline requirements may render the club ineligible for the NCS.

NOTE: If a club does not meet the 48 hour deadline requirement, the match or matches may not be considered for NCS club or player eligibility purposes. Should a match get locked prior to either club's completing match information, that club should contact their local competitions officer to unlock the entry and then complete entering the match report no later than five days after the match was played. Clubs are required to be proactive in resolving local issues such as this.

b. Competition policies of the Approved Governing Body should be published online. Where Approved Governing Body policies are not published, the criteria listed in the USA Club Rugby Regulations shall apply.

c. Cross-union competitions will be governed by a mutually agreed-upon set of regulations between the member unions or an appointed competition director. These regulations will be published 14 days before the first scheduled match of the cross-union competition. The regulations may align with an existing union's rules, but this must be formally communicated to the unions and clubs participating in the cross-union competitions.

The Approved Governing Body regulations must be current and include the following:

* Competition standing regulations, including points and methods for resolving ties within the standings.
* Disciplinary and citing process for the competition.
* Standards for the time, location, and confirmation of match details by the host team.
* Policies for forfeited games.
* Policies for field withdrawal with notice.
* Policies for inclement weather, including late field withdrawal, unsafe conditions prior to kickoff, and matches interrupted due to inclement weather.

d. Match rosters for NCS Qualifying matches must list a minimum of 15 players; to proceed with fewer players, the club/s must have approval in advance from the Approved Governing Body.

e. Match Rosters for NCS Qualifying matches may list a maximum of 23 players.

i. No match roster may contain more than five (5) Non-Resident players.
ii. No Division 1 match roster may contain more than five (5) Professional/Elite (WER) players.
iii. No Division 2 match roster may contain more than two (2) Professional/Elite (WER) players.
iv. No Division 3 match roster may contain more than one (1) Professional player.

A club may appeal the Non-Resident limit by petitioning the Approved Governing Body. USA Club Rugby must approve any exceptions for clubs participating in the NCS.

A player may seek a waiver of their professional player status (See Section 7.5.2.F).

f. Clubs must be registered and In Good Standing with USA Rugby and their Approved Governing Body prior to their first competition or Qualifying match.

g. Clubs fielding multiple sides are subject to additional regulations (See Section 3.5).

h. Clubs must maintain proper player documentation at all times (See Section 7.4). This documentation must be made available upon demand and/or prior to participation in any NCS Qualifying match and the USA Club Rugby NCS event.

i. All players on the event roster should have their profile set to 'Public' in Rugby Xplorer (RX). See Name Withheld Policy: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/ Senior club administrators will conduct random checks to confirm compliance with this senior club policy; players may be subject to sanction for failure to comply after repeat notifications.

3.3. Club Eligibility: National Championship Series (NCS).

The USA Club Rugby NCS includes the playoffs for Men's Divisions I, II, and III, and Women's Divisions I and II, starting with the earlier of either the USA Club Rugby 'Round of 16' or any Senior Club Competitions Committee required cross union play-in match or matches, and culminating in the National Championship.

a. Clubs must participate in a sanctioned USA Club Rugby Competitions as part of an Approved Governing Body in order to qualify for the USA Club Rugby NCS.

b. Clubs must have a registered Level 1 (formerly called Level 200) or higher coach compliant with current USA Rugby coaching accreditations, at the event.

c. Clubs must use the USA Rugby CMS for all NCS matches. Complete rosters must be entered in the Match Day Application (CMS) prior to each match at least 24 hours prior to kickoff unless another timeline is set by the NCS Event Director. Corrections are allowed up to kick-off (entering the list of substitutes, changing a starter/substitute, changing jersey numbers). Anything revised after kick-off is permissible but must be 'fixed' within 48 hours of the match. Full match data, including substitutions and cards, must be entered into CMS for each NCS match no later than 24 hours after conclusion of the match.

d. NCS Rosters.

i. NCS match rosters may list a maximum of 23 players.
ii. No NCS event or match roster may contain more than five (5) Non-Resident players.
iii. No NCS event or Division 1 match roster may contain more than five (5) professional/elite (WER) players.
iv. No NCS event or Division 2 match roster may contain more than two (2) professional/elite (WER) players.
v. No NCS event or Division 3 match roster may contain more than one (1) professional player.

e. Clubs participating in the USA Club Rugby NCS shall submit an 'up to 35' player preliminary roster for eligibility screening purposes. Once approved by the union and eligibility committee, the 28-player Event player roster may only include players from this pool.
f. Clubs participating in the USA Club Rugby NCS may carry a maximum roster of 28 players per Event weekend. The Event roster is locked for the duration of the Event weekend (beginning with the Event check-in through to the final whistle of the competition/calendar weekend).
g. Clubs should routinely monitor the NCS eligibility of their members to ensure there will be no issues with the NCS Event roster or need for an excessive number of waivers. Senior club administrators will conduct random checks to confirm clubs are in compliance with the timeline and CMS data entry requirements noted above.
h. Clubs participating in the USA Club Rugby NCS must carry a minimum roster of 20 players per Event weekend.
i. The Event weekend roster may include a maximum of five (5) Non-Resident players.
j. The Event weekend roster may include a maximum of: five (5) professional/elite players for division 1; two (2) professional/elite players for division 2; and one (1) professional/elite player for division 3.
k. There will be a player check-in at each NCS event. All players must be formally checked in by an NCS Event official before they can play. Players must produce the appropriate identification and Resident status documentation. If a player does not produce the Resident status documentation, they must count as a Non-Resident on match rosters. If a player does not produce the correct identification and Resident status documentation, they are not eligible to play.
l. Clubs fielding multiple sides are subject to additional Regulations at USA Club Rugby NCS events (See Section 3.5).

3.4. Player Eligibility: NCS Qualifying Matches.

The purpose of these Regulations is to maintain the integrity of the game, and to preclude clubs from importing guest players in an effort to strengthen teams advancing to post-season or play-off competitions leading to a USA Club Rugby Championship event. This regulation is designed to prevent what is known as 'club hopping.'

A player requesting a waiver (see Section 7.5.2) must receive formal written approval from USA Club Rugby prior to participating in any National Championship Qualifying match. Submitting a waiver request to USA Club Rugby does not provide temporary eligibility. The eligibility decision must be received before the player may play for their club.

Players must meet each of the following criteria in order to participate in any NCS Qualifying match:

a. Player must be registered to the club and reside in the United States, either upon initial enrollment or with an approved waiver from USA Club Rugby, by the earlier of:
   i. any participation in a National Championship Qualifying match, OR
   ii. no later than 11:59 pm in the player's local time zone on April 1 for men's and women's division I, II, III competitions;
b. Non-Resident (NR) players must have entered and be residing in the United States prior to 11:59 pm in the player's local time zone on April 1 for men's and women's division I, II, III competitions. Proof of Entry into the United States is required to document that these criteria have been met (I-94 or I-797A arrival/departure form, CMS to verify match participation).
c. Players under the age of 18 may only participate at the senior club level with a waiver from USA Rugby (See Section 2.5-(c)).
d. A player entering the United States from abroad after September 1 of the current USA Rugby membership year must receive official clearance of their home Union and USA Rugby in accordance with World Rugby Regulations (see https://usa.rugby/international-player-clearance - submit form to tours@usa.rugby). This includes USA Rugby members returning from playing rugby abroad. Players must produce a copy of this document on request as verification the requirement has been met (see 7.4).
e. Player must not have played in a National Championship Qualifying match for any other club, regardless of the division of, or the geographical distance between the two clubs, during the current competitive season. Should the team advance to the Approved Governing Body playoffs, the local governing body must confirm that the player's transfer has been approved by USA Club Rugby.

   NOTE: Players seeking to join a new club must (1) request approval of their home club and local governing body to join a new club; (2) once approved, register to the new club in RX. If there are problems with the club and/or local union completing the approval process, players must contact those bodies; this will not be considered as a reason for late registration with the new club. Eligibility with the new club is not automatic; if the player played in any NCS Qualifying matches with their home club, they must also receive a waiver from the SCC eligibility committee to be NCS eligible with the new club.
f. A player may not play for different teams concurrently without the knowledge and prior consent of the Approved Governing Body/Bodies.

g. National Team players must be registered with a senior club prior to the registration deadline and before any participation in a NCS Qualifying match. The National Team player has eligibility only with the senior club with whom they are registered during the competitive season unless a waiver has been approved by USA Rugby. National Team players must meet all eligibility criteria to participate in any USA Club Rugby NCS event.

h. The USA Rugby Competition Management System (CMS) is required for all sanctioned NCS Qualifying competitions. The CMS will provide evidence of the number of NCS Qualifying matches each player has played. Full rosters must be entered, including replacement players who entered the match. If the NCS Qualifying match is not entered into CMS, it will not apply toward the club or player participation minimum.

When an NCS Qualifying match has been forfeited, and the non-forfeiting team enters the roster (starters) and locks the match by the 48-hour deadline, the match shall apply towards the non-forfeiting team's player's participation record using that full roster. Players not on the match roster may not use this game to support a waiver. Forfeiting teams will not get player credit and any players from that team entered for that match will be removed.

i. **Player Eligibility: USA Club Rugby Non-Resident Player Exemption (Fifteens Only).**

A Non-Resident (NR) player may apply for a waiver of Non-Resident status based on their being registered solely with USA Rugby for the previous consecutive five-year registration period. (See Section 7.5.2.G.).

3.4.1. Player Eligibility: Approved Governing Body Playoffs.

a. Each player must be verified by the approved governing body as being NCS eligible, or of being able to become NCS eligible upon their participation in the approved governing body playoff match/es.

b. Each approved governing body must confirm each player's identity and eligibility status using the documentation listed in Section 7.4.

c. Each approved governing body must confirm each coach is currently in full compliance with the USA Rugby accreditation requirements (current background check, current Safe Sport competition, World Rugby Level 1 (formerly called Level 200) or higher certification).

d. Each player must be capable of meeting the required Qualifying match minimum (Reg 3.4.2-(c)) by the start of the USA Club Rugby NCS. Approved Governing Body playoff matches apply towards the player's match participation total.

e. Each player must be registered to the club on a full season basis (not weekly) before April 2.

f. Each player is restricted to the division(s) in which they will be eligible to compete in the USA Club Rugby NCS. Approved Governing Body Championship matches apply to the player's number of National Championship Qualifying matches with respect to divisional eligibility. Players may participate in the lower division only if they did not exceed the upper division limit noted in Regulation 3.5.

g. Player must not have played in a NCS Qualifying match for any other club, regardless of the division of, or the geographical distance between the two clubs, during the current competitive season without a waiver from USA Rugby.

h. Eligibility is locked to the club upon participation in any local union playoffs.

i. All players on the event roster must have their profile set to 'public' in Rugby Xplorer. See Name Withheld Policy: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/

j. Players on clubs fielding multiple sides are subject to the additional Regulations outlined within Section 3.5.

3.4.2. Player Eligibility: USA Club Rugby National Championship Series.

a. Player must be registered to the club (full-year basis, not weekly) and reside in the United States, either upon initial enrollment or with an approved waiver from USA Club Rugby no later than 11:59 pm in the player's local time zone on April 1 for men's and women's divisions I, II, III.

b. Non-Resident (NR) players must have entered and be residing in the United States no later than 11:59 pm in the player's local time zone on April 1 for men's and women's divisions I, II, III. Proof of Entry into the United States is required to document that this criteria has been met **(**I-94 or I-797A form**,** CMS player participation history).

c. Players entering the United States after September 1 of the current membership cycle must have an International Clearance from their home Union confirming their eligibility to play in USA Rugby Club competitions.

d. Player on the Event roster must have their profile set to 'public' in Rugby Xplorer.

e. Player must have played in at least two (2) NCS Qualifying matches with the club.

Note: Play is defined as actually stepping onto the field as a starter, reserve, or blood substitution for any length of time.

f. The movement of players included on the 28-person roster of a lower or upper-division team to the 28-player roster of a different division team fielded by the same club is not allowed during the USA Club Rugby NCS except when:

i. the player was part of the lower division team (starter or replacement), which was eliminated in a previous round of the NCS.

ii. the player was part of the club's upper or lower division Event 'up to 28' player roster but did not play.

3.4.3. Recognized Competitive Match.

To request a recognized competitive match, please complete this form: **https://forms.gle/utGuaccu6gbzR8if7**

A recognized competitive match may count as a Qualifying match with respect to player eligibility, only if the conditions listed below have been met.

a. The club has qualified, or is still in contention, for the USA Club Rugby NCS.
b. The Approved Governing Body and/or club has written approval from the Senior Club Fifteens Competitions Committee for the match to count as a Qualifying match with respect to player eligibility. Unless approved by the fifteens competitions committee, a match will not be used for NCS player eligibility purposes.
c. No more than two (2) recognized competitive matches for any division of an NCS-bound club will be approved by the Senior Club Competitions Committee; exceptions must have the committee's approval.
d. No player on an NCS-bound club may use more than one (1) approved recognized competitive match for eligibility purposes; exceptions must have the committee's approval.
e. The approved competitive match does not apply towards the club's match participation requirement; it only applies towards a player's eligibility requirement for satisfying the 2 match participation minimum (not for Section 3.5 calculations). Any exception must be approved in advance by the fifteens competitions committee.
f. The club must request and receive approval from the Senior Club Competitions Committee for the competitive match to be used for player eligibility purposes at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the match and no later than April 1.
g. The approved competitive match must be played by April 15.
h. An approved recognized competitive match will not be counted if it is a forfeit, for any reason.
i. The approved recognized competitive match must be entered into the CMS no later than 48 hours after the match has concluded. If the match is not entered into the CMS and locked within the stated timeline, it will not be considered for player eligibility purposes.
j. Each club must enter their complete rosters (starters and substitutes), and full match details (substitutions, scoring, cards). If information is missing, the match is considered not played and will be removed from CMS.
k. The Senior Club Fifteens Competitions Committee will set up each approved recognized competitive match in CMS for clubs to use; if this is not used, the match will be considered not played and will not apply for player eligibility.
l. Each player must have registered to the NCS-bound club prior to the deadline (See 3.4.2-(a)).
m. The Senior Club Competitions and Eligibility Committees shall review the roster used in the approved recognized competitive match to ensure that the club and players are operating within the Spirit of the Rules.
n. The approved recognized competitive match must be played with a sanctioned senior club, with all players registered and in good standing with USA Rugby. All players on the NCS-bound club playing the game as a Qualifying match must be registered to the club (verified by the rosters entered in CMS).

If a club is suspected of bad-faith action, the recognized competitive match may not count toward any player's match participation requirements.

No player has an automatic right to count a recognized competitive match towards their NCS match participation requirement. Players that fail to meet the match participation minimum may request a waiver from USA Club Rugby (See 7.5.2).

3.5. Player Eligibility: Senior Clubs Fielding Multiple Teams. NCS Qualifying Matches.

The intent of these Regulations is to control the movement of players on upper division teams to lower division teams. For purposes of this rule, these divisions are defined as:

Lower Division: intended division for less competitive clubs or the developmental squad(s) of larger clubs providing opportunities to less experienced and emerging players, as well as team members returning from injury. This division provides an avenue for clubs fielding teams in more than one division to develop their own players. A lower division team is literally in a lower division of play than an upper division team.

Upper Division: Intended division for experienced and continuing senior club players seeking and able to compete at the highest level possible with the largest and most competitive clubs. The top rugby players on a club fielding teams in more than one division.

a. Club Divisional Status.
Only with the approval of, or at the direction from, the local Approved Governing Body, may a club field eligible teams in non-contiguous divisions. A club may appeal its assigned divisional status by petitioning the Approved Governing Body.
b. No club may have more than one team in each divisional level.
c. Movement of players between lower divisions and upper divisions of the same club is allowed except where specifically prohibited by the Approved Governing Body.
d. Club fields multiple teams in the NCS pathway (two or more Divisions).
   i) **In-Season Upper Division Limit: four (4) NCS Qualifying matches.**
   A player may play in no more than four (4) NCS Qualifying matches for the/either upper division team. On playing in their fourth upper division match they are no longer eligible for the lower division team/s after that calendar day.
   ii) **In-Season Upper Division Limit Not Met.**
      (a) Clubs fielding NCS Pathway Teams in Two Divisions (See Figure 1).
      A player may only play for the lower division team in the NCS IF their total matches played in the division is 50% or more of matches played for the upper division team (lower division participation must be greater or equal to the number of upper division matches played)

(b) Clubs fielding NCS Pathway Teams in Three Divisions (See Figure 1).

A player is eligible for the division 3 team in the NCS IF their total matches played in division 3 is 50% or more of all matches (divisions 1, 2 and 3) played for the club (division 3 matches must be greater or equal to the number of upper division matches played).

A player is eligible for the division 2 team in the NCS IF their total matches played in divisions 2 and 3 is 50% or more of all matches (divisions 1, 2 and 3) played for the club (division 2 and 3 matches played must be greater or equal to the number of division 1 matches played).

Note: Players are eligible to play for the upper division team in the NCS so long as they have played in at least two NCS Qualifying (league plus local playoff) matches with the club and are otherwise eligible; these limits manage eligibility with the lower division team(s).

Figure 1. Sample Player NCS Eligibility Matrix (on Clubs Fielding Multiple Teams). Reg 3.5-(d)(i) and (ii).

Number of Div 1 NCS Qualifying Matches Played	Number of Div 2 NCS Qualifying Matches Played	Number of Div 3 NCS Qualifying Matches Played	NCS Eligibility?
4	4	n/a	Div 1 Only
3	3	n/a	Div 1, Div 2
3	2	n/a	Div 1 Only
1	1	n/a	Div 1 Only
2	3	n/a	Div 1, Div 2
0	2	n/a	Div 1, Div 2
n/a	4	4	Div 2 Only
n/a	3	2	Div 2 Only
n/a	3	4	Div 2, Div 3
n/a	1	1	Div 2 Only
n/a	2	3	Div 2, Div 3
n/a	0	2	Div 2, Div 3
3	1	1	Div 1 Only
4	3	2	Div 1 Only
3	4	1	Div 1, Div 2
4	1	4	Div 1 Only
2	2	2	D1 & D2 Only
1	1	4	Div 1, Div 2, Div 3
1	1	2	Div 1, Div 2, Div 3
0	0	2	Div 1, Div 2, Div 3

3.5.1. Player Eligibility: Senior Clubs Fielding Multiple Sides. Approved Governing Body Playoffs.

a. Each player must be capable of meeting the required Qualifying match minimum (see Reg. 3.4.2-(c)) by the start of the USA Club Rugby NCS. Approved Governing Body playoff matches apply towards the player's match participation total.

b. Each player is restricted to the division(s) in which they will be, or can become, eligible to compete in the USA Club Rugby NCS. Approved Governing Body Championship matches apply to the player's number of NCS Qualifying matches with respect to divisional eligibility.

Note: The movement of players included on the 28-person roster of a lower or upper-division team to the 28-player roster of a different division team fielded by the same club is not allowed during the USA Club Rugby NCS. Match organizers may opt to lock rosters at the start of the Approved Governing Body play-offs.

3.5.2. Player Eligibility: Senior Clubs Fielding Multiple Sides. USA Club Rugby NCS.

a. To be eligible to compete in a USA Rugby Championship event in the lower division, a player must have played in a minimum of two (2) NCS Qualifying matches at the divisional (or lower) level entered into the USA Club Rugby NCS.

Example: On a club fielding teams in divisions 1 and 2, to compete in the division 2 NCS, a player must have participated in at least two (2) *division 2 NCS Qualifying matches.*

b. To be eligible to compete in a USA Club Rugby Championship event in the upper division, a player must have played in a minimum of two (2) NCS Qualifying matches at any division level with the club.

Example: A player may be eligible for the division 1 NCS having only competed in two (2) *division 2 NCS Qualifying matches.*

c. The movement of players included on the 28-person roster of a lower or upper-division team to the 28-player roster of a different division team fielded by the same club is not allowed during the USA Club Rugby NCS except when:

i. the player was part of the lower division team (starter or replacement), which was eliminated in a previous round of the NCS.

ii. the player was part of the club's upper or lower division Event 'up to 28' player roster but did not play.

3.6. Women's Premier League (WPL).

3.7. Professional Rugby.

These Regulations aim to provide a balance between (a) needed flexibility for developmental and/or prospective professional rugby players to continue to get match-time experience with local amateur teams, and (b) the protection of fair competition within USA Club Rugby. Understanding that certain players may move up from local amateur teams to professional rugby at any given point in the season, these Regulations intend to provide a mechanism, with limitations, as to player movement between amateur and professional rugby.

Rugby-related Transfer (Regulation 7.5.2.D).

A request to transfer to a new senior club on this basis will be considered for professional rugby (e.g. MLR) participation only. Players must request a waiver from USA Club Rugby and meet the criteria specified in Regulation 7.5.2D.

NOTE: A player's professional rugby participation can be confirmed by contacting the senior club eligibility committee (eligibility@usaclub.rugby). A list of MLR participants (current and most previous year) can be found at: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/

3.8. Senior Club Player Waivers.

Players that do not meet the criteria for participation in the NCS may seek a waiver from USA Rugby (see Section -7.5.2). A waiver is not guaranteed; each player must be diligent in documenting their case to receive one.

a. Categories of Waivers.
   i. In-Season transfer due to geographic relocation for non-rugby reasons.
   ii. **Missed match participation requirement due to medical/personal hardship.
   iii. **Missed match participation requirement due to high-level rugby commitments.
   iv. In-Season transfer due to geographic relocation for professional rugby reasons.
   v. In-Season transfer for rugby-related reasons (fifteens only).
   vi. Professional/elite rugby player status (sevens and fifteens).
   vii. Residency exemption (fifteens only).
   viii. Name withheld exemption.
b. Each request for a waiver of an eligibility regulation must include a personal statement from the player elaborating the situation clearly and succinctly, along with documentation noted on the waiver request form.
c. Each request must be received by the Senior Club Eligibility Committee at least ten (10) business days prior to any match/event for which the player is requesting a waiver.
d. The Senior Club Eligibility Committee will have up to ten (10) days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant.

**Each request of the missed match participation requirement categories must be submitted by the club administrator.

SECTION 4. SENIOR ALL STAR FIFTEENS.

4.1. Team Eligibility.

All fifteens all-star teams must be registered and in good standing with the Approved Governing Body.

4.2. Player Eligibility.

Prior to participation in any fifteens all-star rugby activities, all players must be registered and in good standing with both USA Rugby and the Approved Governing Body.

Registration to a specific club or team in the Approved Governing Body is not required.

Players under the age of 18 may not participate in contact activities with any Adult rugby club without a USA Rugby Waiver for Exceptional Players. Players of any age competing in Adult rugby will no longer be eligible for Youth/High School rugby. The USA Rugby Waiver for Exceptional Players is an option only for players at least 17 years of age.

Coaches allowing any player under the age of 18 to participate in Adult rugby contact activities (practices, games, all codes) without the USA Rugby Waiver for Exceptional Players are subject to sanction. All members of the club must complete the Safe Sport for Players module before the waiver will be approved.

SECTION 5. SENIOR CLUB SEVENS.

5.1. Governing Authority and Resolution of Conflicts.

This Section applies to all USA Club Rugby Sevens NCS qualifying events, recognized competitive events, playoffs, and championship events.

In the event of ambiguity or conflict, the following order of authority controls:

a. Applicable federal, state, and local law;
b. World Rugby Laws and Regulations;
c. USA Rugby Bylaws, Regulations, and policies;
d. USA Club Rugby Regulations and policies; and

e. Event or tournament rules and guidelines .

Event or tournament rules may supplement, but may not conflict with, a higher authority. The designated USA Club Rugby representative, or if none is present, the designated local Competition representative, may set aside or correct an event or tournament rule, policy, or decision that conflicts with a higher authority. Any such ruling must be documented and reported to the Senior Club Sevens Competitions Committee.

5.2. National Championship (NCS) Qualifying Competition.

a. The USA Club Rugby NCS includes all Men's and Women's Qualifying events.

b. Clubs must adhere to all general USA Rugby Regulations (See Section 2).

c. All National Championship Qualifying events/tournaments must be a part of a sanctioned USA Club Rugby competition, administered by the Approved Governing Body and approved in advance by the Senior Club Sevens Competitions Committee.

d. Clubs must participate in a sanctioned USA Club Rugby Sevens Competitions as part of an Approved Governing Body in order to qualify for the USA Club Rugby National Championship.

e. The Approved Governing Body shall adhere to the competitive Qualifying structure set forth, or approved, by the USA Club Rugby Sevens Competitions committee with respect to the Qualifying event series schedule, point allocation, verifying club standings, and/or other components of the event.

f. Each NCS Qualifying event must include at least four or more registered **teams**, with complete rosters for the competitive teams entered into the Match Day application (CMS) prior to the start of the event.

g. Each NCS Qualifying event must include a check-in at which each player's identification, eligibility and roster status shall be verified (See Section 7.4).

h. NCS Qualifying events must be held between June 1 and the final weekend of July.

i. All National Championship Qualifying sanctioned matches shall be governed by the World Rugby Laws of the Game.

j. Clubs participating in sanctioned competitions must adhere to all club-specific regulations outlined elsewhere in Section 5.

5.3. National Championship (NCS) Qualifying Competition.

Clubs must follow the pertinent ~~adhere to all general USA~~ Club Sevens ~~Rugby~~ Regulations ~~(See Section 2 above). Additionally, clubs must follow the pertinent Club Sevens regulations~~ including (but not limited to):

a. A Club must be registered and compliant with USA Rugby and In Good Standing with the Approved Governing Body by June 15th. A club or team may be registered solely to play Sevens. Clubs currently enrolled with USA Rugby do not need to re-register to participate in sevens.

b. Clubs must participate in a sanctioned USA Club Rugby Sevens Competitions as part of an Approved Governing Body in order to qualify for the USA Club Rugby National Championship.

c. Clubs must have a Level 1 (formerly called Level 200) or higher coach registered to the club, with current USA Rugby coaching accreditations at each Qualifying event and at the National Championship.

d. Clubs must use the USA Rugby CMS for all Qualifying events. Complete rosters must be entered in the Match Day application (CMS) for each Qualifying or Competitive tournament for each team in the event no later than 5pm (event local time) on the Friday before the event unless another timeline is set by the Approved Governing Body/Event Director. Corrections are allowed up to kick-off (changing list of players, changing jersey numbers) with approval of the Event Director.

e. Each participating club may carry a maximum roster of 13 players per event.

   i. Each roster must include a minimum of nine (9) players.

   ii. All 13 players on the event roster may be selected to a game roster.

   iii. A team may nominate and use up to five replacements. The same player can be used multiple times. This is in addition to substitutions to cover blood, injury from foul play incidents. In the event of extra-time, a sixth replacement can also be utilized.

   iv. Each event roster may include a maximum of two (2) players who are not U.S. citizens or three (3) provided that at least one of these players is a Green Card holder or has been registered with the club for at least the most previous three years (requires written verification from the senior club eligibility committee).

   v. No Event Roster may contain more than two (2) professional players, or three (3) provided at least one of those players has been registered with the club for at least the most previous three years (requires written verification from the senior club eligibility committee). NOTE: Elite (WER) players are exempt from this roster limit. Waivers of professional status may be requested from eligibility@usaclub.rugby

   vi. There must be a player check-in at each NCS Qualifying event, with each player formally checked in by an Event official. Players must produce the appropriate identification and US citizenship documentation. If a player does not produce the US citizenship documentation, they must count as a Non-Citizen on the event roster. If a player does not produce both a government-issued form of identification and US citizenship documentation, they are not eligible to play.

c. All players must be registered to the club by the deadline specified in Section 5.2.(a).

f. Clubs may attempt to qualify MORE than one team as long as each team maintains separate rosters, as verified in RX-CMS, at all Qualifying events. has registered with USA Rugby by June 15th as a separate club (e.g., Boulder #1, Boulder #2). A second club team, registered and formed from an existing club is considered the same as a new separate club, and held to all USA Club Rugby Regulations for the USA Club Championship event. Players must register with, and can only compete for, one of the teams fielded by the club in all competitive/qualifying tournaments. Should any player move between rosters for any Qualifying event, the second team is immediately no longer eligible for NCS consideration.

g. Each roster must include a minimum of nine (9) players.

h. All players on the event roster must have their profile set to 'public' in Rugby Xplorer (see Name Withheld Policy: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/).

i. Each event roster may include a maximum of two (2) players who are not U.S. citizens or three (3) provided that at least one of these players is a Green Card holder or has been registered with the club for at least the most previous three years (requires written verification from the senior club eligibility committee).

j. Players arriving from overseas after September 1, 2025 must be able to produce their international clearance.

k. No Event Roster may contain more than two (2) professional players, or three (3) provided at least one of those players has been registered with the club for at least the most previous three years (requires written verification from the senior club eligibility committee). NOTE: Elite (WER) players are exempt from this roster limit. Waivers of professional status may be requested from eligibility@usaclub.rugby

l. Clubs may qualify MORE than one team as long as each team has registered with USA Rugby by June 15th as a separate club (e.g., Boulder #1, Boulder #2). A second club, registered and formed from an existing club is considered the same as a new club, and held to all USA Club Rugby Regulations for the USA Club Championship event. Players must register with, and can only compete for, one of the teams fielded by the club in competitive/qualifying tournaments.

m. Clubs must have a Level 1 (formerly called Level 200) or higher coach registered to the club, with current USA Rugby coaching accreditations, at the National Championship.

g. Clubs may enter more than one team into Qualifying tournaments. All players must be registered to the club by the deadline (July 1). For purposes of this Regulation, each roster is locked for the duration of the Qualifying tournament.

Clarification: If a club is only trying to qualify one team for nationals but wishes to play its 2nd more than one team in Qualifier tournaments it may do so. Each roster is locked for the duration of the Qualifying tournament. The club may move players between the 1st and 2nd teams in subsequent tournaments. The club must designate which of its teams is trying to progress to nationals before the start of any Qualifying tournament in which it has more than one team entered. All players must be registered to the club by the deadline (July 1) or before playing in any Qualifying event, whichever comes first.

h. No Qualifying event scheduled after Sunday, July 25, 2027 will be approved for player eligibility purposes.

i. **National Championship Kit.** Clubs must have complete numbered light and dark sets (home and away) of jerseys available in event of conflict. Players should wear matching (color) socks and shorts.

j. Event rosters must be entered in CMS for each Qualifying or Competitive tournament for each team in the event no later than 5pm (event local time) on the Friday before the event.

k. Teams intending to use a Recognized Competitive Tournament for the purpose of getting players eligible to compete at the Club Sevens National Championship must do all of the following:

i. Notify the Club Sevens Committee about the team's intention to use a non-Qualifier sevens tournament for player qualification purposes at least ten calendar days prior to the event.

ii. No event scheduled after Sunday, July 26, 2026 will be approved for player eligibility purposes.

iii. Receive written confirmation that the event has been approved as a Recognized Competitive Tournament by the Club Sevens Competitions Committee.

iv. Get the tournament director to agree to ID check your team, using the roster entered in CMS, prior to play. Roster must be entered in CMS no later than 5pm (event local time) on the Friday before the event.

5.4. Player Eligibility: Qualifying/Recognized Competitive Tournament.

In order to participate in Club Sevens qualifying tournaments, players must meet the following criteria:

a. Be registered to the club and residing in the United States, through initial enrollment or transfer, prior to the earlier of (i) playing in any Qualifying/Recognized Competitive Tournament, or by (ii) July 1, whichever comes first. Players from abroad who do not bring their passport to events must still prove entry into the USA by July 1 (I94 Form). In addition, foreign players arriving in the USA after September 1, 2026 just be able to produce their international clearance.

Transfers: The transfer process in RX has two steps:

i. From their membership page in RX, player requests to join a new club. When approved by the home club and local union, player will receive an email notification from RX that their request was approved.

ii. Register to the new club: Player must go back to their membership account and complete their registration to the new club. If there are problems with the home club and/or local union approving the request, the player must contact those entities; this will not be considered as a reason for late registration with the new club (contact SCC eligibility for assistance: eligibility@usaclub.rugby).

b. Players must have proof of identification and citizenship available at all events in which they participate. Original or legible copies of government-issued citizenship documentation must be presented at the event (See Section 7.4).

c. Players may register with any Club for sevens but may not play in any Qualifying/Recognized Competitive Tournaments for any other club during the sevens competitive season.

d. Players who transfer to another club must ~~initiate the request~~ complete the transfer by ~~prior to~~ the July 1 deadline (See 5.4(a)(i) and (ii) above). ~~and have approval of their previous club and Approved Governing Body.~~

e. Players must register with, and can only compete in Qualifying/Recognized Competitive Tournaments for one Club.

f. All players on the event roster must have their profile set to 'public' in Rugby Xplorer (see Name Withheld Policy: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/).

g. For Qualifying/Recognized Competitive events, each player must be capable of meeting the required Regulations for the USA Club Rugby Championship Event (See 5.4 and 5.5).

h. Players under the age of 18 may not participate in contact activities with any adult rugby club without a USA Rugby waiver for exceptional players.The USA Rugby waiver for exceptional players is an option only for players at least 17 years of age. (See Section 2.5-(c)).

~~**Note:** Players of any age competing in adult rugby will no longer be eligible for Youth/High School rugby (with or without the waiver).~~

~~Coaches allowing any player under the age of 18 to participate in adult rugby contact activities (practice, games, all codes) without the USA Rugby waiver for exceptional players are subject to sanction. All members of the club must complete the Safe Sport for Players module before the waiver will be approved.~~

i. ~~Youth/high school players who participate with a senior club, even if solely for non-contact activities, must register with senior club rugby as the USA Rugby Youth/High School member insurance does not apply to adult rugby.~~

i. Players must have proof of identification and citizenship available at all events in which they participate. Original or legible copies of government-issued citizenship documentation must be presented at the event (See Section 7.4).

~~**Note:** Players who do not bring foreign-based passports to events will still need to prove residency/entry prior to July 1.~~

g. ~~Players must register with, and can only compete in Qualifying/Recognized Competitive Tournaments for one Club.~~

5.5. Player Eligibility: National Championship.

a. In order to compete at the Club Sevens National Championship, players must play for the club in at least two Qualifying/Recognized Competitive Tournaments (as pre-approved by the Club Sevens Competitions Committee scheduled at least one week apart, and prior to the deadline noted in Section 5.3-(h). ~~5.1-(m)(ii) above.~~

b. All players competing at the Club Sevens National Championship must be in compliance with the criteria included in Section 5.4 of this document.

5.6. Recognized Competitive Tournament.

Clubs intending to use a Recognized Competitive Tournament for the purpose of player eligibility must do all of the following:

a. Notify the Club Sevens Committee about the team's intention to use a non-Qualifier event for player qualification purposes at least ten calendar days prior to the event.

b. No event scheduled after Sunday, July 25, 2027 will be approved for player eligibility purposes.

c. Receive written confirmation, in advance, that the event has been approved as a Recognized Competitive Tournament by the Club Sevens Competitions Committee.

d. Get the tournament director to agree to verify your team's eligibility (See Section 7.4), using the roster entered in CMS, prior to play. Roster must be entered in the Match Day application (CMS) no later than 5pm (event local time) on the Friday before the event or by the timeline established by the Event director.

e. Each player must be registered to the club and residing in the United States, through initial enrollment or transfer, prior to playing in any Qualifying or Recognized Competitive Tournament, or by July 1, whichever comes first.

f. Players may register with any Club for sevens but may not play in a Recognized Competitive Tournament for any other club during the sevens competitive season.

g. Each player must be capable of meeting the required eligibility criteria (Section 5.3) for the USA Club Rugby Championship Event.

h. Players under the age of 18 may not participate in contact activities with any adult rugby club without a USA Rugby waiver for exceptional players.The USA Rugby waiver for exceptional players is an option only for players at least 17 years of age (See Section 2.5-(c)).

5.7. Club Sevens Player Waivers.

Players that do not meet the criteria for participation with their club may seek a waiver from USA Rugby (see Section 7.5.2). A waiver is not guaranteed; each player must be diligent in documenting their case for receiving one.

a. Categories of Waivers.

- In-Season transfer due to geographic relocation for non-rugby reasons.
- Missed tournament participation requirement due to medical/personal hardship.
- Missed tournament participation requirement due to high-level rugby commitments.
- Professional player status (sevens and fifteens).
- Name withheld exemption.
- Professional player roster exemption.
- Non-citizen roster exemption.

b. ~~Each request for a waiver of an eligibility Regulation must include a personal statement from the player describing the situation clearly and succinctly. The player must also submit any documentation noted on the waiver request form.~~

c. ~~Each request must be received by the Senior Club Eligibility Committee at least ten (10) business days prior to any event for which the player is requesting a waiver.~~

d. ~~The Senior Club Eligibility Committee will have up to ten (10) days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant.~~

~~A waiver of the eligibility Regulation(s) is not guaranteed upon submission of a request. This shall be specified within the eligibility decision returned by USA Rugby. Submit waiver requests to: eligibility@usaclub.rugby~~

SECTION 6. NATIONAL ALL STAR SEVENS CHAMPIONSHIPS. Not Applicable.

SECTION 7. GENERAL PROCEDURES.

7.1 Medical.

Concussion.

Players suspected of having concussion or diagnosed with concussion must go through a graduated return to play protocol (GRTP: available on http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/concussion). The World Rugby Head Injury Assessment (HIA) protocol does not apply to USA Club Rugby domestic competitions.

Heat.

USA Rugby recommends that the Heat Illness Prevention Interventions established by World Rugby (http://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/) be applied if, during the match, conditions reach a temperature higher than/equal to 86º F with humidity greater than/equal to 60%.

7.2 USA Club Rugby Championship Event Rosters.

Upon qualifying for a USA Club Rugby Championship event, each club shall submit to USA Rugby, within the time frames requested, a roster of the players and a list of the support staff that will be in attendance at the USA Club Rugby Championship Event. The roster shall designate information specific to player and club eligibility for each such Event. The roster must be signed and certified by a responsible club official and Approved Governing Body Representative.

All clubs must check with their Approved Governing Body officials for any other requirements of documentation that must be retained and/or presented at Qualifying matches (See Section 7.4).

All updated information on current year eligibility Regulations will be maintained at https://usaclub.rugby/resources/

7.3 Club Documentation.

See Section 7.4 for the full list of documentation that should be maintained at all times by a responsible Club official and be available upon demand and/or prior to participation in any Qualifying match and USA Club Rugby Championship event.

7.4 Player Documentation.

The following is a guide to documentation that should be maintained at all times from the start of the competitive season by a responsible club official. This documentation should be made available upon demand and/ or prior to participation in any Qualifying match/event and USA Club Rugby Championship event.

A player may be required to submit documentation to prove as needed (a) identity; (b) citizenship status and/or qualification as a resident (as opposed to a Non-Resident or Non-Citizen Player); (c) USA Club Rugby registration; (d) waiver granted by USA Club Rugby; and (e) college enrollment. Players unable to provide appropriate documentation will be deemed ineligible to play in Qualifying matches/tournaments and/or assigned Non-Resident or Non-Citizen Player status for purposes of eligibility.

Acceptable documentation, original or a legible copy which may be paper or electronic (cell phone, laptop or tablet), includes:

a. Proof of Identification**.**

- Current government issued photo identification and/or official school-issued ID for students.

b. Proof of U.S. Citizenship for Senior Club Sevens eligibility can be verified with:

- Original or copy of government-issued photo ID accompanied by a birth certificate from a U.S. state or territory.
- Original or copy of photo page of U.S. passport. or U.S. passport card (serves as both identification and verification of US Citizenship). May use current or expired passport/passport card.
- Original or copy of Enhanced Driver's License (will have "Enhanced" prominently along top, only from the states of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Washington; serves as identification and verification of US Citizenship).
- Original or copy of Naturalization Certificate accompanied by a government or school-issued photo ID.
- Original or copy of Native American Tribal Identification Card.
- Official school-issued ID for students accompanied by a birth certificate, copy or original, from a U.S. state or territory.
- International Clearance (for players coming from outside the US after September 1 of the current USA Rugby membership year.

c. Proof of U.S. Residency for Senior Club Fifteens eligibility can be verified with:

- Government-issued photo ID accompanied by a birth certificate, copy or original, from a U.S. state or territory.
- Official school-issued ID for students accompanied by a birth certificate, copy or original, from a U.S. state or territory.
- Original or copy of photo page of U.S. passport. or U.S. passport card (serves as both identification and verification of US Resident status). May use current or expired passport/passport card.
- Original or copy of Enhanced Driver's License (will have "Enhanced" prominently along top, only from the states of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Washington; serves as identification and verification of US Resident status).
- Original or copy of Naturalization Certificate accompanied by a government or school-issued photo ID.
- Original or copy of Permanent (Green Card) or Conditional Permanent Resident.
- Original or copy of Native American Tribal Identification Card.
- International Clearance (for players arriving from outside the US after September 1 of the current USA Rugby membership year).

A Social Security Card is not sufficient to confirm proof of U.S. Citizenship or Residency.

A Real ID Card is not sufficient to confirm proof of U.S. Citizenship or Residency.

An EAD ID Card is not sufficient to confirm proof of U.S. Citizenship or Residency.

Documentation in reference to the pursuit of permanent or conditional resident status in order to facilitate a player's participation in the competition is NOT sufficient.

Proof of current member registration can be verified with a printout from USA Rugby website showing valid registration dates.

Proof of official waiver from USA Club Rugby can be verified with waiver letter signed by the Senior Club Eligibility Committee Chair, delivered by electronic mail, displaying player name, club, and the specific Regulation waived.

7.5 Waivers.

7.5.1 Waiver Request Process.

Each request for waiver from these Eligibility Regulations must be in writing and supported by required documentation, including a personal statement from the player or club. Each request must be received by the Senior Club Eligibility Committee at least ten (10) business days prior to any Qualifying match/tournament or USA Club Rugby Championship event for which the player/club is requesting a waiver.

The Senior Club Eligibility Committee will have up to ten (10) days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant. Individuals seeking a waiver should consider that backlogs of requests can occur. Player eligibility should be investigated by the club and any waivers requested prior to the beginning of each competitive season.

Players requesting an eligibility waiver from the Senior Club Eligibility Committee must receive approval of the waiver BEFORE participating in any Qualifying match or event. Submitting a waiver request to the Senior Club Eligibility Committee does not provide temporary eligibility. The formal waiver from the Senior Club Eligibility Committee must be received before the player may play for their Club.

Submit waiver requests to: eligibility@usaclub.rugby

Expedited Request.

There shall be a $50 non-refundable fee required for any waiver requested within five business days of an NCS competition for which eligibility is requested. No requests will be accepted within 48 hours of the first day of the competition for which eligibility is being requested. To submit the fee, use the USA Club Rugby Association Venmo profile and notify the eligibility committee when the fee has been paid.

7.5.2 Senior Club Eligibility Waivers.

The Senior Club Eligibility Committee will review all waiver requests that pertain to National Championship eligibility, for both fifteens and sevens. The following are the basic categories of waivers which may be granted by the Senior Club Eligibility Committee. This is not an exhaustive list. Members may seek a waiver of the regulations based on other unusual or extraordinary personal situations provided the request does not conflict with the intent of these Regulations or the Spirit of the Rules.

Total waiver requests of the two match/event participation requirement (Reg 7.5.2.B, Reg 7.5.2.C.) are limited to **ten** per club. This sum includes both approvals and denials. It is the responsibility of the club to track the number of waivers submitted by its members (waiver decisions found at: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/). All requests of the two match participation requirement must be submitted by the club administrator.

All requests for a waiver must include a personal statement from the player.

The Senior Club Eligibility Committee can only consider what the member provides; each request will only be reviewed by the committee once.

The timing of the request (standing and remaining schedule of the original club, standing and remaining schedule of the new club) will factor into each waiver consideration.

A. In-Season Transfer due to Geographic Relocation for Non-rugby Reasons.

Players seeking an in-season transfer due to geographic relocation must complete the transfer prior to the membership registration deadline (see Section 3.4-(a) or 5.2-(a)). Required:

i. Documentation verifying geographic relocation for non-rugby related employment, or military transfer, enrollment in educational program by player and/or spouse/family member; and,
ii. Dated document(s) confirming basis for relocation (military transfer papers; offer of employment including terms of employment and start date in the new location; acceptance or admissions notification); and,
iii. Release from original club; and,
iv. Approval of the Approved Governing Body.

The timing of the request (standing and remaining schedule of the original club, standing and remaining schedule of the new club) will factor into waiver consideration.

Player must not have played in a local union playoff match with any other club during the current competitive season. Players who did play in a local union playoff with their home club may join a new club for training and participation in friendlies, tournaments, and competitive sevens. However they are no longer NCS-eligible. Exceptions may be approved for documented extraordinary circumstances.

Player must not have played in a USA Club Rugby NCS Match for any other club during the current competitive season.

NOTE: This is a one-time exception; the player may not transfer 'back' to the home club with NCS eligibility during the same competitive season.

B. Missed Match/Event Participation Requirement due to Medical/Personal Hardship.

Players must be registered to the senior club by the membership registration deadline (see Section 3.4-(a) or 5.2-(a)). A request to waive the match/event participation minimum specified (Section 3.4-(d) or 5.3-(a)) must be accompanied by documentation of extraordinary circumstances:

i. For Medical Hardship, contemporaneous or other medical documentation from a medical doctor which confirms injury or illness; and a statement, which includes the date, that the player has been cleared for full participation from a professional medical practitioner; and any additional medical records or documents which substantiate the request.
ii. For Mental Health as a justification for a waiver, documentation from a licensed therapist, licensed counselor, or psychiatrist. Background detail is not needed, only that therapy or counseling has been done.
iii. For Personal Hardship, contemporaneous or other appropriate documentation which establishes the player's inability to compete as a result of a personal hardship.
iv. For Medical/Personal Hardship: Statement from the player elaborating the situation, clearly and succinctly.
v. For other than a documented extraordinary circumstance (e.g. medical, military service), the player must have played in at least one NCS Qualifying match with the club during the current competitive season. This includes NCS Qualifying matches (conference/local union or a Regulation 3.4.3 match) but does not include a forfeited match.

Consideration will be given to the player's history with the club, registration date in the current competitive season, the participation opportunities, the number of teams fielded by the club (single team, teams in multiple divisions).

Total waiver requests of the two match/event participation requirement are limited to **ten** per club. This sum includes both approvals and denials. It is the responsibility of the club to track the number of waivers submitted by its members (waiver decisions found at: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/). All requests of the two match/event participation requirement must be submitted by the club administrator.

C. Missed Match/Event Participation Requirement due to High-Level Rugby Commitments.

A request to waive the match/event participation minimum specified in Section 3.4-(d) or 5.3-(a) must be accompanied by documentation of extraordinary circumstances:

i. Evidence of invitation to a National Team camp or tournament held during the time the player's club is scheduled to participate in a Qualifying match/event.
ii. Evidence of a U.S.-based professional contract (Major League Rugby) that requires participation during the time the player's club is scheduled to participate in Qualifying matches/events.
iii. Participation history with the club for which they are seeking to participate.

Players seeking a waiver of the minimum participation requirement due to high-level rugby commitments must play in at least one Qualifying match/event with their club.

The player must be registered to the senior club by the membership registration deadline (see Section 3.4-(a), Section 5.2-(a)).

No player with high-level rugby commitments is guaranteed a waiver of eligibility from the Senior Club Eligibility Committee.

'Mandatory Rest' required by a National Team or professional rugby club or competitions may be taken into consideration but is not considered on the same level as mandatory participation in a camp, tournament, or match.

Total waiver requests of the two match/event participation requirement are limited to **ten** per club. This sum includes both approvals and denials. It is the responsibility of the club to track the number of waivers submitted by its members (waiver decisions found at: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/). All requests of the two match/event participation requirement must be submitted by the club administrator.

NOTE: The timing of the request (when the player registered with the club with respect to the date/s of the high-level rugby event) will factor into waiver consideration.

D. In-Season Transfer due to Geographic Relocation for Professional Rugby Reasons (Fifteens Only).

Considered for players demonstrating geographic relocation to participate with a professional rugby team. Players must complete the transfer request prior to the membership registration deadline (see Section 3.4-(a)). Each request must include the following:

i. Documentation of relocation for employment with a professional rugby team or participation in an academy directly affiliated with a professional rugby team; and
ii. Dated document(s) verifying reason for relocation (contract and/or offer of employment including terms of employment, start or report date in the new location); and,
iii. Release from original club; and,
iv. Approval of the Approved Governing Body.

Player must not have played in a USA Club Rugby NCS match for any other club during the current competitive season.

NOTE: This is a one-time exception; the player may not transfer 'back' to the home club with NCS eligibility during the same competitive season.

E. In-Season Transfer for Rugby-Related Reasons (Fifteens only).

Players requesting an in-season transfer in order to join a different senior club must initiate the transfer prior to the membership registration deadline (see Section 3.4-(a)). Each request must include:

i. Confirmation of playing in no more than three (3) NCS Qualifying matches with the home club, and
ii. Confirmation that the player did not play in any local union playoffs with the home club, and
iii. Release from the home club confirming no outstanding disciplinary or financial issues, and
iv. Approval of the Approved Governing Body.

The timing of the request (matches played, player's history with the club, standing and remaining schedule of the home club, standing and remaining schedule of the new club) will be considered should the player require a waiver from USA Rugby for eligibility in the NCS.

To be NCS eligible with the new club, the player must meet all eligibility criteria (no waivers of the two match participation requirement; a forfeited match may not be used for NCS eligibility).

NOTE: This is a one-time exception; the player may not transfer 'back' to the home club with NCS eligibility during the same competitive season.

F. Professional/Elite Player Status (Sevens and Fifteens).

The purpose of professional-player restrictions is to prevent roster stacking, not to restrict players with established club affiliation or limited professional opportunities that did not result in sustained professional participation.

A request to waive a player's professional status must include a personal statement summarizing the player's:

i. Professional/elite rugby participation during the current and previous calendar years.
ii. Professional/elite rugby participation history overall (fifteens only, must be limited for approval).

The player must be registered to the senior club by the membership registration deadline (see Section 3.4-(a), Section 5.2-(a)).

NOTE: There is no limit on the number of players who can receive this waiver from the same team.

G. Residency Exemption (Fifteens Only).

A request to waive a player's Non-Resident status must include verification that the player has been registered exclusively with USA Rugby, or a USA Rugby Recognized Body (e.g. MLR, WER, NIRA), for the most previous consecutive five year registration period (excludes the current registration year).

H. Name Withheld Exemption (Full policy at: https://usaclub.rugby/resources/).

If the player has a reason for having name withheld, they may send a confidential narrative to Senior Club Eligibility eligibility@usaclub.rugby, describing why name withheld status should be granted. This submission must include any relevant documentation. The waiver must be completed by the player and not a coach or other third party. A waiver for name withheld status is only effective for one registration cycle (August to August).

Note: Name Withheld status does not guarantee a player's privacy given that matches are open to the public.

7.6. Appeals.

7.6.1. Appeal of Approved Governing Body Eligibility Decision.

A player or club has the right to appeal an eligibility decision of the Approved Governing Body. To request this review, all explanations and relevant data must be submitted to the Senior Club Eligibility Committee (eligibility@usaclub.rugby). This review will be based on the procedure used in the decision of the Approved Governing Body.

This request must be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of the decision by the Approved Governing Body, but not less than five (5) business days prior to an NCS Qualifying match/event or USA Club Rugby Championship event for which eligibility has been requested. The committee will have up to five (5) days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant. There shall be no waivers to this timeline.

7.6.2. Appeal of Approved Governing Body Competitions-Related Decision.

A player or club has the right to appeal a competitions-related decision of an Approved Governing Body. To request this review, all explanations and relevant data must be submitted to the Senior Club Competitions Committee. This review will be based on the procedure used in the decision of the Approved Governing Body.

This request must be submitted within seven (7) days of the decision by the Approved Governing Body. The committee will have up to five (5) days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant. There shall be no waivers to this timeline.

7.6.3. Senior Club Council Appellate Panel: Review of National Eligibility/Competitions Committee Decision.

A player or club has the right to Appeal an eligibility decision of the Senior Club Eligibility or Competitions Committee. This review will focus on the procedure used in the decision of the Senior Club Committee.

This request must be submitted within five (5) days of the decision by the Senior Club Committee, but not less than five (5) business days prior to an NCS Qualifying match/event or USA Club Rugby Championship Event for which eligibility has been requested.

Players requesting an appeal of a national Eligibility/Competitions Committee decision must receive approval of the appeal BEFORE participating in any NCS match or event. Requesting an appeal from the Senior Club Council does not provide temporary eligibility. The formal approval of the appeal from the Senior Club Council must be received before the player may play for his/her Club.

Matches at the NCS will not be played if any player is not confirmed as eligible for the event by USA Club Rugby.

There shall be no appeal during any NCS Championship event.

There is a fee associated with the appeal: $100 if by the player, $300 if by the club. This fee shall be returned if the appeal is successful. To submit the fee, use the USA Club Rugby Association Venmo profile.

The panel will have up to ten business days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant.

There shall be no waivers to this timeline.

A member may file a Grievance with the USA Rugby Disciplinary and Grievance Committee to review whether there has been a civil rights violation claim.

7.6.4. Senior Club Council: Review of Local Union Disciplinary Decision.

A Player, their Club, or their Union may appeal a decision of the Judicial Officer or Judicial Panel. Any appeal must be lodged with the Designated Disciplinary Officer within:

- **48 hours** of notification of the written decision for **15s matches**; or
- **24 hours** of notification of the written decision for **7s games.**

Appeal requests should be submitted to: discipline@usaclub.rugby

NOTE: All suspensions remain in effect pending the outcome of an appeal. Players are not eligible to participate until an appeal decision has been issued. Failure to comply may result in a Regulation 18 Misconduct report being filed against both the Player and the Club, with additional disciplinary sanctions available.

7.6.4.1. Appeal Fee.

There is a fee associated with the appeal: $100 if by the player, $300 if by the club. This fee shall be returned if the appeal is successful. To submit the fee, use the USA Club Rugby Association Venmo profile.

The panel will have up to ten business days from the date of receipt of all required documentation to respond to the applicant.

7.6.4.2. Appeal Process.

An appeal is **not** a second hearing of the case. The Appeal Officer or Appeal Committee will have access to the recording, evidence, and case file from the original hearing and will not normally rehear witnesses or accept new evidence unless exceptional circumstances exist (for example, where the original hearing recording is unavailable).

The burden of proof rests with the party lodging the appeal (the "Appellant"). The Appellant must demonstrate that, pursuant to World Rugby Regulation 20.8.5, one or more of the following grounds apply:

a. The original decision was in error, either in respect of a material finding of fact or in law;
b. The decision should be overturned in the interests of justice;
c. The sanction imposed was manifestly excessive or otherwise wrong in principle; and/or
d. The sanction imposed was unduly lenient.

7.6.4.3. Proper Notice of Appeal.

Except in rare circumstances where a **de novo** hearing is ordered, an appeal is not an opportunity to simply repeat the evidence or arguments previously submitted to the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer.

To proceed with an appeal, the Appellant must submit a **Notice of Appeal** that clearly identifies the ground or grounds of appeal under Regulation 20.8.5(a), (b), (c), and/or (d). The Notice of Appeal must also include a brief written statement explaining specifically how the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer is alleged to have erred under each ground relied upon.

Failure to clearly state the grounds of appeal and supporting reasons may result in the appeal being rejected or dismissed.